

REMARKS

The original international claims consisted of claims numbered 1-20 and 22-28, i.e., no claim was numbered 21. A September 17, 2003 communication from Sigfried Hostad of the RO/US requested that we clarify or request rectification. We requested rectification on November 17, 2003, but our request was denied because we changed the dependency of the claim originally numbered 25, and renumbered 24 (it was dependent on 24, which had been renumbered 23).

We now seek to correct the numbering of the claims. If the claims were presented "as is" for examination, the Examiner would renumber 22-28 as 21-27, per 37 CFR 1.126. We have done this in the present amendment by striking out the old (incorrect) numbers and inserting underlined corrected numbers.

As a result, claims 1-27 presently appear in this case. The further amendments to the claims are being made to eliminate all multiple dependencies, so as to reduce the filing fee, and to place the case in better condition for examination. Please enter this amendment prior to calculation of the filing fee.

Prompt consideration on the merits and allowance are earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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